IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Inoue et al.

Appl. No. To Be Assigned

Filed: Herewith

Transmission of Working Vehicle For:

Confirmation No. To Be Assigned

Art Unit: To Be Assigned

Examiner: To Be Assigned

Atty. Docket: 0666.1810001/TGD/EDH

Information Disclosure Statement

Commissioner for Patents PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Listed on accompanying Form PTO/SB/08A are documents that may be considered material to the examination of this application, in compliance with the duty of disclosure requirements of 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98.

Applicants have listed publication dates on the attached PTO/SB/08A based on information presently available to the undersigned. However, the listed publication dates should not be construed as an admission that the information was actually published on the date indicated.

Applicants reserve the right to establish the patentability of the claimed invention over any of the information provided herewith, and/or to prove that this information may not be prior art, and/or to prove that this information may not be enabling for the teachings purportedly offered.

This statement should not be construed as a representation that a search has been made, or that information more material to the examination of the present patent application does not exist. The Examiner is specifically requested not to rely solely on the material submitted herewith.

Applicants have checked the appropriate boxes below.

- □ 1. Statement under 37 C.F.R. 1.704(d). Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application and this communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.
- ∑ 2. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed within three months of the date of filing of a national application other than a continued prosecution application (CPA), OR within three months of the date of entry of the national stage as set forth in 37 C.F.R. § 1.491 in an international application, OR before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits OR before the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of a request for continued examination under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114. No statement or fee is required.
- □ 3. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(c). This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date AND after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but before the mailing date of a Final Rejection, or Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application.
 - □ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).

- □ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- □ c. Attached is our PTO-2038 Credit Card Payment Form [OR] Check No.

 ______ in the amount of \$ ______ in payment of the fee under 37

 C.F.R. § 1.17(p).
- □ 4. Filing under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(d) This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed more than three months after the U.S. filing date and after the mailing date of a Final Rejection or Notice of Allowance, but before payment of the Issue Fee. Enclosed find our Check No. _______ in the amount of \$______ in payment of the fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p); in addition:
 - □ a. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1). I hereby state that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(1).
 - □ b. Statement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2). I hereby state that no item of information in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to my knowledge after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in 37 C.F.R. § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)(2).
- ☐ 5. The document(s) was/were cited in a search report by a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application. Submission of an English language version of the search report that indicates the degree of relevance found by the

foreign office is provided in satisfaction of the requirement for a concise explanation of relevance. 1138 OG 37, 38.

- □ 6. A concise explanation of the relevance of the non-English language document(s) appears below:
- Zopies of the documents were cited by or submitted to the Office in an IDS that complies with 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)-(c) in Application No. 09/942,556, filed August 31, 2001, which is relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. § 120. Thus, copies of these documents are not attached. 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(d).

It is respectfully requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed PTO/SB08A, and indicate in the official file wrapper of this patent application that the documents have been considered.

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

Tracy-Gene G. Durkin Attorney for Applicants

Registration No. 32,831

Date

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO						Complete if Kn wn				
						Application Number		To Be Assigned		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE					Filing Date		Herewith			
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT						First Named Inventor		Inoue et al.		
OTATEMENT DI ATTEIOANT					Art Unit			To Be Assigned		
	many sheets as necessary)		Examiner Name			To Be Assigned				
Sheet		one of one		Attorney Docket Number			0866.1810001/TGD/EDH			
U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS										
Examiner	Cite	Document Number		Publication Date		Name of patentee or Pages, Columns, Lines, Where				
Initials*	No.1	Number - Kind Code ² (if known) MM-DD-Y		/YYY 		olicant of Cited nument	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear			
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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS										
Examiner	Cite	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Nar	Name of Patentee or		olumns, Lines, Where		
Initials*	No.'	Country Code ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (i	ode ³ - Number ⁴ - Kind Code ⁵ (if known)		Apj Doc	Applicant or Cited Document	Relevant Passages or Relevant Figures Appear	T6 `		
		WO 99/52733		10-1999		imaru et al.			· · · · · ·	
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Examiner Signature					•	Date Considered				

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional) See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document? Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you are required to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.

#146636v1<SKGF_DC1>-IDS - continuation of 09-942,556 - form SB-08A.wpd mac 6/2.03